

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (currently amended) A mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner, comprising:

an interface charged rechargeable power supply that powers the fingerprint scanner during mobile use; and

a data and power communication interface ~~that couples data between the fingerprint scanner and~~ that is configured to be coupled to a docking station, and that provides power to charge said interface charged rechargeable power supply;

wherein data is communicated from said fingerprint scanner to a host processor via said data and power communication interface through said docking station and power is provided to charge said interface charged rechargeable power supply through said docking station when said data and power communication interface is coupled to said docking station, and wherein said data includes information representative of a fingerprint image captured by the mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner; whereby, a dedicated plug for recharging a power supply separate from a data interface can be avoided.

2. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 1, wherein said interface charged rechargeable power supply includes at least one rechargeable battery.

3. (previously presented) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a charging circuit that regulates the charging of said at least one rechargeable battery when the fingerprint

scanner is receiving power through the powered data and power communication interface.

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4. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 3, wherein said charging circuit regulates the rate of charging of said at least one rechargeable battery.

5. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a voltage regulator circuit that maintains a substantially constant output system voltage from the rechargeable battery during mobile use.

6. (previously presented) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said data and power communication interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB).

7. (previously presented) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said data and power communication interface comprises an IEEE1394 compatible interface.

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said at least one rechargeable battery comprises at least one nickel cadmium battery.

10. (currently amended) A method for ~~charging~~ communicating data from a
mobile fingerprint scanner comprising the steps of:

docking the mobile fingerprint scanner with a docking station to couple a
data and power communication interface in the mobile fingerprint scanner to a docking
station;

charging a rechargeable power supply in the mobile fingerprint scanner
with power carried over a the data and communication interface when docked with the
docking station; and

transmitting data from the mobile fingerprint scanner to a host processor
over the data and communication interface when docked with the docking station,
wherein the data includes information representative of a fingerprint image captured by
the mobile fingerprint scanner.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the rechargeable
power supply includes at least one rechargeable battery, wherein said charging step
comprises:

regulating the charging of said at least one rechargeable battery when the
fingerprint scanner is receiving power through the data and communication interface.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said regulating step
comprises:

regulating the rate of charging of the at least one rechargeable battery.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a voltage regulator circuit, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a substantially constant output system voltage from the rechargeable power supply during mobile use with the voltage regulator circuit.

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14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]] 10, wherein said docking step comprises:

coupling the data and power communication interface with the docking station through a universal serial bus (USB).

16. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]] 10, wherein said docking step comprises:

coupling the data and power communication interface with the docking station through an IEEE1394 compatible interface.
